

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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HERSETH INTRODUCES FUELS SECURITY ACT OF 2005

Renewable Fuels Standard Recognizes Value of Clean, Homegrown, Renewable Energy Sources as vital to Energy Security and Rural Economic Development

April 14, 2005, Washington, DC – As the House considers comprehensive energy legislation over the coming days and weeks, Rep. Stephanie Herseth has introduced bipartisan legislation to create a renewable fuels standard increasing the use of renewable fuels to 8 billion gallons by 2012. The bill, the Fuels Security Act of 2005, recognizes the value of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel as clean, homegrown energy sources to decrease dependence on foreign oil and drive South Dakota's rural, agricultural economy.

Rep. Herseth (D-SD), who sponsored the bill, was joined by a bipartisan group of colleagues who have cosponsored the legislation, including Reps. Tom Osborne (R-NE), Collin Peterson (D-MN), and Steve King (R-IA). As the Energy Bill moves through the House, support for renewable fuels is growing, including support of the 8 billion gallon standard from Governors from 33 states, as reported in the Wall Street Journal. The bill currently has 24 bipartisan cosponsors in the House.

Rep. Herseth said, "With rising petroleum prices and record oil imports, Congress must enact policies that maximize the production and use of domestic renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel. Renewable fuels provide benefits to the economy, especially those in economically challenged rural areas; they benefit the environment; and they enhance our national security. For all of these reasons, Congress should care about renewable fuels, and renewable fuels should be a major component in our nation's long-term energy policy."

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